



Spring 2017

Thursday 9:00-11:45

Location: *City Studio*

742 Johnson St. /

Fine Arts Bldg, 104

Geog 491

UrbanMobility

Ray Straatsma

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Course Overview

Geog 491 Urban Mobility provides a unique applied learning experience for UVic students to explore and creatively engage with a range of urban transportation issues in the Victoria area. Public transit, active transportation, road safety, bicycle planning and design, and innovations in urban mobility will be addressed in the context of planning, policy and geography of Victoria and the Capital Region.

The course will feature numerous guest presentations from local area city planners, professionals and community leaders, facilitated by local transportation consultant and advocate Ray Straatsma.

Class presentations, discussions and assignments will present opportunities to research and evaluate a range of student projects ranging from transit planning, bicycle corridor design, active transport plans and related urban issues in Victoria and other CRD municipalities.

Assessment/Assignments

As a student in this course, you will be assessed on the following:

- a) **Participation** (15%) – Active and positive contribution to class environment and learning
- b) **Assignment #1 -- Policy/Planning Project** - (30%) – Working individually, or in pairs, you will prepare and write a policy-oriented review focused on research, urban design or public communications addressing a local transportation issue or subject. Potential topics will be provided. In terms of deliverables, this project could take many forms (written report; research analysis; essay with photos; survey design). **(Due Feb 8th)**
- c) **Assignment #2 -- Site /Corridor Scan & Assessment** (35%) – Working in pairs or small groups, prepare and write a succinct report on a specific planning concept or design solution (i.e. improving a specific physical site (street block, corridor or intersection; public space), OR a detailed research, survey or communication project that provides insight into a local transportation issue. Strong preference are for projects/projects that align with current or near-term initiatives by the City of Victoria, Saanich, Univ. of Victoria or other institutions involved in local transport planning. **(due March 15th)**
- d) **Assignment #3 -- Poster / Slide Presentation** (20%) - Each group will orally and visually present to the rest of the class their findings, content and recommendations from Assignment #2. Emphasis will be expected to address the objectives, options and outcomes to be considered for a successful implementation of their design concept or research project.

Note on marks: A-level marks (80%+) reflect exceptional (beyond expectations), outstanding, or at least highly competent efforts. B+/B level marks (73-79%) reflect good or at least acceptable efforts (usually above the class average). B-/C+ level marks (65-72%) represent average efforts, showing some understanding but deficient in some way. C/D level marks (50-64%) represent passable but largely insufficient efforts, while F marks (<50%) represent failing the course.

Course readings & references

There are no required texts for this course. Highly recommended, however, are two very readable non-academic books about cities and transportation. (Please consider borrowing from the library, or purchasing one or both)

Speck, Jeff – *Walkable City*

Sadik-Khan, Janette – *Streetfight*

One or two chapters from these books and other readings will be provided via Course Spaces to complement in-class work, presentations and assignments. These select readings are mandatory, and considered essential for the full enjoyment and success in this course. References to these readings will be expected in the project assignments, and some discussion of readings will take place in class. We recommend active engagement with the readings (highlighting, taking good notes etc.)

Course learning objectives

By the end of this course successful students will be able to clearly and insightfully articulate:

1. the regional and international context within which a renewed interest in active transportation and urban infrastructure investments are taking place
2. multiple perspectives on urban planning, multi-modal transportation and active transportation in the context of urban and built environments – and the benefits and challenges of retrofitting transportation systems
3. the complexities of developing and implementing city planning initiatives and the challenges, barriers, politics, and strategies involved
4. the rationale and details of active transportation investments in City of Victoria, District of Saanich, UVic and other jurisdictions, and be able to critically assess the planning process
5. the extent to which active transport and related mobility investments support broader urban and regional sustainability efforts
6. the importance of qualitative and quantitative data (and methods) to support urban planning initiatives.

Students will also have the opportunity to develop specific skills and habits including: effective reading, listening, and notetaking; learning from a wide range of sources and perspectives; written, oral, and visual communication skills; learning to take initiative and ownership of your learning; group work and respectful dialogue skills; critical thinking* and problem solving. Keep in mind employers are just as concerned with your skills and habits as your marks.

**Note: Critical thinking is often misrepresented as cynical, pessimistic, or “being against things.” In this class it should rather be understood in terms of healthy skepticism; piercing questioning; making important linkages and connections; recognizing and evaluating multiple perspectives and the values and assumptions underlying each (including one’s own); evaluating evidence and arguments (while recognizing power relations in knowledge claims); offering alternative solutions and approaches; arriving at defensible positions on issues and working towards a more respectful, inclusive, just, and sustainable world.*

Note on Course Experience Survey

We value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

“The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.”

Topics in Transportation. UVic Geography 491

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Spring 2018 - City Studio 742 Johnson St.(downtown Victoria)

- UVic Campus Fine Arts Bldg, 104

DRAFT Schedule [Jan 4 – Feb 15]

Jan 4 Fine Arts Bldg. 104	9:00- 9:20 Introduction: Ray S / Icebreaker 9:30 -10:00 Introductions / course overview 10:15 - 10:50 Ray Straatsma <i>Themes in Transportation & Cities</i> 11:00 -11:45 Todd Litman: <i>Urban Transportation Trends in North America</i>
Jan 11 City Studio	9:00- 9:10 - Check in Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps or Clr Loveday (Welcome to City Studio!) 9:15-10:00 John Hicks & Kate Berniaz (CRD) <i>Regional Transport Planning</i> 10:10-10:50 Sarah Webb (City of Victoria) <i>Building for Bikes in Victoria</i> 11:00–11:45 City Walk/Bike tour (Pandora Street +)
Jan 18 City Studio	9:00- 9:15 - Check in 9:20-10:20 Matt Boyd & colleague (BC Transit) <i>Transit Planning 101</i> 10:30-11:15 Transit Operator ?? <i>Perspectives from Front of the Bus</i> 11:20 -11:45 Assignment Options (course project #1)
Jan 25 Fine Arts Bldg. 104	9:00- 9:15 - Check in - Assignment Options (course project #1) 9:20- 10:00 Ray Straatsma <i>Active Transportation: Access and Space</i> 10:10-10:50 Mike Wilson (UVic Campus Planning) <i>UVic's new Campus Cycling Plan</i> 11:00 - 11:45 Campus tour UVic
Feb 1 City Studio	9:00- 9:15 - Check in 9:20-10:00 Ismo Husu (City of Victoria) <i>Parking policy & pricing in Victoria.</i> 10:05 -10: 40 Joaquin Karakas (City of Victoria) <i>Public Realm Planning & Design</i> 10:50 - 11:45 Group work to plan course project #1
Feb 8 City Studio	<u>COURSE PROJECT #1 DUE</u> 9:00- 9:15 – Check in 9:20-10:30 Karen Laberee (UVic – Bikemaps.org) <i>Measuring Bike Usage and Conflicts</i> 10:45-11:45 Meghan Winters (Assistant Prof., Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU) <i>Current Research on Active Transportation and Health in Canada</i> 11:00 - 11:45 Group walkabouts to document/analyse chosen site or corridor (course project #2)
Feb 15	<u>Reading Week – NO CLASS</u>

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DRAFT Schedule [page 2 – Feb 22 – April 5]

Feb 22	9:00-9:15 – Check in
City	9:20 - 9:50 Thomas Guerrero (<i>Sidewalking Victoria</i>) <i>Seeing the city on foot</i>
Studio	10:00 - 10:30 Lorne Daniel (<i>GVPN</i>) - <i>Placemaking: People-centred cities and spaces</i> 10:35 - 11:45 Group walking tour of downtown sites/spaces (course project #2)
March 1	9:00-9:15 - Check in
City	9:20-10:00 Troy McKay/ David Williams (District of Saanich) <i>Towards an Active Transportation Plan</i>
Studio	10:00-11:15 Cameron Scott (Saanich): <i>Uptown Douglas Corridor Planning</i> 11:15 –11:45 Group walkabouts to review/scan chosen sites or corridors (course project #2)
Mar 08	9:00-9:15 Check in
City	9:20-9:45 Steve Hutchison & Nick Armstrong & Bronwyn Crowder (City of Victoria) <i>Managing Movement and Street design: Transportation data, metrics and traffic signals.</i>
Studio	9:55–10:30 Brian Patterson (Urban Systems): <i>Active Transport Planning/Consulting across Canada</i> 10:30-11:45 – Group work to plan course project #2
Mar 15	<u>COURSE PROJECT #2 DUE</u>
City	9:00-9:15 Check in
Studio	9:20-10:00 Corey Burger (GVCC) <i>Advocacy Lessons in Active Transportation</i> 10:15-11:15 Carson Sage (<i>Cycling without Age</i>) / Raviv Litman (<i>U-Bicycle Victoria</i>) <i>Social entrepreneurship and innovation by bicycle</i> 11:20 - 11:45 [Discussion of Assign #3 presentations]
Mar 22	9:00- 9:15 - Check in
City	9:20-10:15 Neil Arason <i>Vision Zero and Road Safety in Canada</i>
Studio	10:25-11:05 Rebecca Abernethy (BC Ministry of Transportation –Policy Branch) <i>Climate Change and Transport in BC</i> 11:10 - 11:45 Class time to prepare for ASSIGNMENT #3 (Class Presentations)
Mar 29	9:00- 9:15 - Check in
City	9:20 -10:30 >> Jayne Bradbury (Fort Properties) <i>Urban Development & Design</i>
Studio	
April 5	9:00- 9:15 - Check in
City	Final Class – Student Presentations
Studio	